

contributions from the Tribe increased above previous levels, this was solely due to the general election cycle and the availability of funds to effectively participate in the political process for the first time in tribal history. As the report states, "In any event, no testimonial or documentary evidence indicates that the tribe's decisions to make political contributions beginning in 1996 were linked to Interior's denial of the Hudson application in 1995." Final Report at 342.

While the general conclusion of the Tribe's honorable participation in the political process is born out by the findings counsel was able to review in the report, SMSC disagrees with much that is in the report. SMSC did nothing more than to exercise its Constitutional right to petition the government. It is unfortunate that SMSC was forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees and risk damage to its good name and reputation and those of its employees because for the first time SMSC tried to participate in the political process. Investigations of this sort simply chill the right of all Native Americans to participate in the political process, a right that this country should instead encourage.

As previously stated, SMSC opposes publication of the Final Report, but if the report is to be unsealed, SMSC demands that this statement be included in the appendix.